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Dorset tower to reopen

by SUE TIFFIN
Editor

After two years of closure, Dorset tower will be open to visitors once again. Additionally, recreational programming in Algonquin Highlands that has been altered or cancelled throughout the pandemic will be running this year.

At a March 3 meeting of Algonquin Highlands council, Chris Card, parks, recreation and trails manager, brought a plan to reopen the tower and restart recreational programming as provincial guidelines and public health measures in place during the COVID-19 pandemic are eased.

Dorset tower has been closed to the public throughout the pandemic, since social distancing and sanitization requirements were deemed to be too difficult to maintain on the tower structure.

Council had discussed the tower in 2021 and asked that staff look into options for advanced ticket sales to help manage an abundance of traffic and large groups during the fall colour season. Card said this software is now available, a contract with CAMIS Inc. having been approved during the last council meeting.

While various recreational programs have still been running virtually or outdoors throughout the pandemic, designed to be "COVID proof," meaning they could oper-

see RECREATIONAL page 3



Passing the torch

Longtime community helpers Joanne Barnes and Kim Russell are retiring from the Minden Community Food Centre, welcoming Jean Munroe and Victoria Lawson into the positions of manager and assistant manager at the Newcastle Street organization. From left, Russell, Barnes, Munroe and Lawson met on March 7 in front of the food centre. Russell retired at the end of February and Barnes retires at the end of this month. See story on Page 2. /SUE TIFFIN Staff

Kinmount Fair announces return for 150th celebration

by JERELYN CRADEN
Special to the Times

The Kinmount Fair is coming back after a two year pause due to the pandemic, and its new theme is history-making: Celebrating 150 years.

"Thirteen fairs [throughout Ontario] have dissolved over the past few years," said Guy

Scott, president of the Kinmount Agricultural Improvement Society and author of the new book, *The Story of Kinmount Fair, 1872 - 2021*. "But this year, restrictions are going to be lifted and come hell or high water, we're planning to open on September 2 to 4, Labour Day weekend."

As one of the larger Ontario fairs, the Kinmount Fair averages 20,000 plus visitors

each year. As a fair board director, Scott said, "We have one goal and that's to get as many people to come to our fair as possible. There are so many new people in town and this whole COVID thing is drawing more people away from the cities. A lot of older people are saying that it's time they came back to

see FAIR page 3



MINDEN SUBARU



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Minden Community Food Centre welcomes new leadership

by SUE TIFFIN
Editor

Joanne Barnes can take a call, but while she does, grandson Jack Clement will patiently wait for her to get back to the important business of baking cookies with him.

Barnes is retiring at the end of this month, after 18 years working at the Minden Community Food Centre and plans to have more time to spend with Jack and her other grandchildren.

Over the past two decades, she's devoted much of her time to the Food Centre, where she has served as manager. That came about when her church pastor made an announcement asking for someone to take his position on the board of directors for the Minden Food Bank.

"I thought, well, I could do that," said Barnes. "After attending the first couple of meetings, I thought, I can't make informed decisions or suggestions unless I learn more about the day-to-day."

So Barnes began going in to the food bank on each of the days they were open, for about 10 months, keeping notes about what was working and what could work better. Within a few days of her presenting her observations to the executive, she was offered the position of manager.

"It was just a very gradual learning experience," she said.

Upon accepting the role, she began to put systems in place to counteract challenges that were happening at the food bank, including the creation of a donation record book, and a system for tracking food coming in and out.

"That's how we have all these systems that are in place now," she said, noting that with the systems in place, distribution of food is fair.

"Everyone's on the same page," said Barnes. "If there's a problem, they're running out, all they have to do is call and it's dealt with on an individual basis, so that no one is going hungry."

Barnes also ensures those who come to the food bank in an emergency are helped.

"Anytime a family comes for the very first time, you may think it's not valid, but we're not in a position to judge, so anytime anybody comes, they leave the food bank on that first visit with a complete order of food," said Barnes. "At that time you give them a list of information you require when they come the second time. If they were scamming us, what's the worst that happened, they got a few groceries."

Barnes has always wanted to help, referring to her work with the Food Centre as a calling, rather than a job.

"It goes way back to our parents," she said. "Our parents weren't well-off but they were comfortable. My dad, he would always help somebody if he could see somebody struggling, whether it be with a load of groceries, or some money."

Barnes said she has always experienced enjoyment from helping others.

"I think it's because we grew up in that type of family, that if you had a little extra and you saw somebody that was short on things, you offered help without being asked, you offered help with no expectation in return," she said. "I think that's a life lesson we learn from early on."

Barnes has advocated for clients to ensure they receive fi-



Kim Russell, left, and Joanne Barnes have long been the faces of the Minden Community Food Centre. "Minden Community Food Centre is ready for new leadership and we can't wait to see the new ways that you find to help the community," wrote Barnes to incoming manager Jean Munroe and assistant manager Victoria Lawson. /SUE TIFFIN Staff

nancial help for medical needs or been able to connect them with other community members to help. She's helped defuse stressful situations and offered people strength and encouragement when they've been in greatest need.

"It's the satisfaction of seeing how you can improve someone's life," she said. "That's something we see over and over and of course there's certain ones that, it's a bigger result. That's the main thing, is just seeing how you can improve a family's life."

Barnes has been with the food bank since it was at what is often referred to as the old IGA building on Bobcaygeon Road, moving with it to the Remedy's pharmacy building and then the Food Centre on Newcastle Street where it is now. She continued working even with a cancer diagnosis and through treatment in 2010. That was the same year she received the Guardian Angel award from YWCA Peterborough-Haliburton. A few years later, she would be named Highlander of the Year for her work with the Food Centre, and also as the founder of Fuel for Warmth saying at that time, "my mandate is to feed people and keep them warm."

While she had planned to stay in the position for 20 years, after the additional stresses that come with working through the pandemic, Barnes said she's been "inundated with so much extra," and is feeling exhaustion set in. Especially in the last eight months, Barnes said she's seen desperation on the faces of clients, and also mental health workers associated with the Food Centre.

"The general population is not aware that we have people living in tents, even now," she said. "In the city they're on the street. Here, they're not visible. They're in tents, they're in tool sheds ... People don't see it, but the workers do, and we do. It's things like that that are starting to take its toll on frontline workers."

She said she noticed last summer she wasn't able to bounce back as quickly, and was taking worry about clients and desperate situations home.

"We're doing as much as we can to help, but is it enough?" she asked. "At that time [both assistant manager Kim Russell and I] decided it was time to step aside and let someone new and fresh take over, because what we used to be able to deal with and shake off and move on, we were less able to."

Barnes has plans to spend more time with family, take courses online, and return to reading. She'll also continue managing Fuel for Warmth, to ensure people in the area are looked after.

"I was always caring for people in some capacity, it's always been a big part of my life," she said. "That's what it felt like, that I was called to help people, always help the needy, the underdog, the people who couldn't advocate for themselves. They need somebody, and that's sort of the role I got into."

Kim Russell began volunteering at what was then the Minden Food Bank about 14 years ago. She had closed her clothing store, her youngest kids had started high school, and she had more time on her hands.

"I just felt that I could be doing something great with my life," she said.

At first she was volunteering, meeting with a group of about four volunteers on Monday mornings to open the food bank, get food ready and greet clients.

"Just being a mom, I just couldn't fathom not having food for my kids," she said. "We have many, many moms, and single moms, show up at the door in tears. I would give them a hug and give them food. I just felt like everyone's mom. 'Does

everyone have enough food, is everyone OK?'"

Russell said it was a pleasure to volunteer, and that she wanted to try and help out where she could.

In 2014, the Minden Food Bank moved from its home next to Remedy's Pharmacy on Bobcaygeon Road to its current location on Newcastle Street.

"It was night and day," said Russell. "I remember when we moved in, I thought, 'oh my God, this thing's huge,' and now it's packed to the ceiling. We needed it, we need it. There's just so much now, there's so many people coming to the door, saying, 'I've never been here before,' and they've got tears in their eyes. I generally start with a hug. That's where I start. And just let them feel, it's OK. They're just people. They're just hungry people. It's got such a stigma, and they're just hungry people."

Russell said often after helping, she could see people physically take a breath, relieved to have food.

When the Food Centre became busier, Russell was hired by Barnes and Marilynne Lesperance as the assistant manager and began coming in on Wednesdays too to help share the work.

"Then we could work hand-in-hand, because [Barnes] was so busy in the office, she didn't have time to be on the floor or talk to the clients or get the volunteers co-ordinated, so that was sort of my job," said Russell.

In 14 years, Russell has seen the changing location of the centre, more need for the support it offers, and has worked through flooding in Minden as well as the pandemic.

"It's been a privilege to be there," she said. "I'm really proud of the food bank. I'm proud of what we've all done. It's been a team, it certainly hasn't been one or two people, it's been a massive team, all around."

In retirement she hopes to focus on her two grandkids, upcoming weddings for her children and her work at Wintergreen Maple Products and Pancake Barn in Gelert. She'll miss being a part of the "great bunch of wonderful human beings" at the Food Centre, though.

"I think it just gave me a lot of hope," said Russell. "Everyone just has to be kind to each other and it works better. Just be a giver."

Jean Munroe has been hired as the manager of the Minden Community Food Centre.

She has lived in the area for 11 years, moving from Whitby. In 2018, she retired from her position as business relationship manager with Telus after 24 years with the company.

"I realized very quickly that I was kind of bored," she laughed of her attempt at retirement.

Having always been interested in boards and community helping, which she noted was much a part of the culture at Telus, Munroe took interest in the manager position at the Food Centre and is looking forward to the role.

"It seems like something I can put back into the community," she said. "It's something really different for me, but at the same time there are elements that are the same – it's relationship-building, community-involvement – so it's nothing new in that respect."

Munroe laughed that she isn't shy, "by any means," and will be doing a lot of socializing to meet as many people as possible in the weeks to come.

"I really want to see this community benefit from something that I've done," she said. "We're here to help. I hope I can make a difference in this community, I'm looking forward to it."

Victoria Lawson is the new assistant manager of the Food Centre.

She lives in Minden and has spent most of her career working in not-for-profit management, having most recently worked 20 years as a development manager, resource manager and project co-ordinator with Canadian Blood Services. She was drawn to the ad for assistant manager when she saw it in the paper and recognized she had the qualifications.

"I've always worked in not-for-profit positions that are in some way helping the community, and for me this position, two days a week, gets me out and able to meet the community – meets that need in me – and hopefully I'll prove to meet some needs at the Minden Community Food Centre," she told the *Times*.

In a written statement, Barnes welcomed Munroe and Lawson to the Food Centre.

"Already they are illustrating a new leadership team that is empathetic, interested in helping the clients, and willing to work hard in their new adventure," she said. "I feel that they will form a new and good leadership team. Minden Community Food Centre is ready for new leadership and we can't wait to see the new ways that you find to help the community."

For more information visit www.mindenfoodbank.org.

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Fair to feature animals, parade, rides and dances

from page 1

the fair. It's like that old Joni Mitchell lyric: You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone."

Celebrating 150 years, visitors can experience a visual retrospective of the fair in the pioneer complex. "We're gathering photographs and artifacts and, believe it or not, we're planning to have a Kinmount Fair Film Festival," said Scott. "We have gathered up so many film documentaries about our fair, including one eight-millimetre film that Keith Stata (Highlands Cinemas) made back in the 1960s."

This year, the Kinmount Fair will look as close to the 2019 fair as possible.

"We have horses and livestock and a home craft exhibit.

And all of the animal shows," said Scott. "We have a parade like we've always had. And stage shows. Kids can pet rabbits and goats. We have dog and horse shows, and heavy horses. And a little bit of the newer stuff like wildlife shows which are educational, mostly for young kids who love to carry and pet the skunk."

He happily added: "Nobody got sprayed."

As in past years, there will be a kiddie land and an adult land with age-appropriate rides. "We are going to have the traditional parade and a live band for evening dances in the arena. About 1,600 people take part in that," said Scott. "We also have a country video dance planned."

As for the ever-popular trailer park adjoining the fairgrounds (with 600 spaces), it is almost filled to capacity. "We

have a policy where we let people buy their site this year for the next year," said Scott. "Most of them have been coming for a long time. They have their little groupings, like villages, with their own little social clubs. They must be enjoying themselves because they keep coming back."

After looking at hundreds of photos from past Kinmount Fairs, Scott, who is a history teacher, was most impressed with the obvious fun that the kids were having.

"There's so much to see and do."

The Kinmount Fair is a landmark rural experience where life-long memories are made.

For more information go to: www.kinmountfair.net

Recreational programming to resume

from page 1

ate throughout any phase of the province's re-opening plans, some programs including the swim and soccer programs have not run.

Card said the township's emergency operations control group has been reviewing these approaches, but as of Feb. 22, that group had been disbanded and direction returned to the discretion of council. Card recommended previously cancelled programs be given approval to continue, ensuring COVID-19 regulations be met.

Council was in support of both the tower reopening and the recreational programming resuming.

"Folks have really missed programming and they've missed the tower," said Councillor Jennifer Dailloux. "I wholeheartedly support us planning to reopen and as Chris said, if things change, different recommendations will be brought back and considered at that time. But I'm fully in support."

"I agree and would really like to see the tower reopening," said Deputy Mayor Liz Danielsen. "I know everyone's missed being able to go up there and enjoy the facilities there."

Card said the Dorset tower roadway is scheduled for ditching, culvert replacement and resurfacing this year, and recommended the tower open following that road work, which would require three days with a timeframe for the work dependent on spring thaw.

"Depending on conditions, this may mean that the tower will not open until the end of May or start of June," said Card. Typically the tower opens for May long weekend.

County	Current Cases Not Resolved	Current Probable Cases	Confirmed Cases (Total to date)	Confirmed Cases Resolved (Total to date)	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Confirmed Deaths (Total to date)	Probable Deaths (Total to date)
Haliburton	5	0	413	407	10	1	0
Kawartha Lakes	53	1	3,577	3,460	97	64	13
Northumberland	38	1	3,211	3,145	81	28	0
Pending Information	0	0	2	2	0	0	0
Total	96	2	7,203	7,014	188	93	13

Three hospitalizations reported in past week

In the March 7 update from the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District health unit which includes data from March 4, Haliburton County reported three new cases of COVID-19, City of Kawartha Lakes reported 23 new cases and Northumberland County reported 21 new cases. Three hospitalizations in Haliburton County have occurred since last week. Due to access to PCR testing being restricted to those living and working in high-risk settings, the number of reported cases of COVID-19 is an underestimate of the community spread./Screenshot from HKPRDHU website





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(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference meetings, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:


March 10 – Regular Council Meeting
March 31 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.mindenhill.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting, please download by visiting our website at www.mindenhill.ca/council/. Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION

The 2022 Interim tax bills were mailed on February 25, 2022. If you have not received your bill(s) prior to the March due date, please contact our office. The Interim tax bill will be payable in two installments; March 18th and May 20th, 2022. This bill has been calculated using the 2021 annualized assessment multiplied by 50% of the 2021 applicable tax rate(s). Payments received after February 15th may not be reflected on your tax bill. Please note that any overdue amounts do not include penalty/interest for March. Please contact our office for a current balance. Property owners are responsible to provide to the Municipal Office written notification of any address change. Failure to receive your tax bill does not exempt penalty charges from being applied to a tax account.

TIME TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS AND THE BATTERIES IN ALL SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS



Clocks will spring forward one hour at 2am on Sunday, March 13th and the Minden Hills Fire Department is recommending residents install new batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide alarms when they change their clocks. Don't forget to check the date on your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms they need to be replaced every 10 years.

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – MARCH 10, 2022 9:00 AM

TAKE NOTICE that the Thursday, March 10, 2022 Closed Session meeting has been moved forward on the agenda and will commence after Delegations. For more information or to view the agenda please visit www.mindenhill.ca/council/.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES SUMMER STUDENTS

Do you know a student who is looking for a great summer job? We are currently accepting resumes for 2 Summer Students for our Community Services Department in Parks and 2 at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre as Heritage Interpreters. Positions are for a 16 week period from May to August. Rate of pay is \$15/hour. Please visit our website at www.mindenhill.ca/employment-opportunities/ for more information, how to apply and application deadlines.

NOTICE – SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING 2022 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will commence the 2nd round of its 2022 Budget deliberations during a Special Meeting of Council via web conference scheduled for March 24, 2022.

Trisha McKibbin, CAO/Clerk • 705-286-1260 ext. 505
tmckibbin@mindenhills.ca

Health coalitions warn of problems with privatization

by SUE TIFFIN
Editor

Local health coalitions have joined forces to launch a “fight back campaign” against the privatization of healthcare services.

Members of the health coalitions representing Haliburton County, City of Kawartha Lakes, Peterborough and Northumberland County met with media via Zoom on Feb. 24 to highlight a comment made by Minister of Health Christine Elliott in early February as she was announcing the reopening of health-care services.

During her speech, made in Ajax on Feb. 1, Elliott said the province’s science advisory table had identified the most recent wave of COVID-19 had peaked, that hospital capacity was available for COVID-19 patients and the province would resume surgeries and procedures that had been paused to leave room for a surge in patients with the virus. She noted, “We’re opening up pediatric surgeries, cancer screenings, making sure that we can let independent health facilities operate, private hospitals, all of those things are possible because we do have the capacity.”

Sara Labelle, regional vice-president of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union and chair of the union’s hospital professional division spoke out against allowing independent health facilities and private hospitals to operate in the province.

“That is a complete departure from what we have historically done in Ontario, and in fact completely goes against the legislation that banned private hospitals back in 1973,” she said. “This is a complete departure from that, it is further privatization, and they’ve done it under the guise of telling people that they’re going to get rid of the backlog by doing this.”

Labelle said expanding surgeries to independent health facilities and private hospitals does not expand capacity for surgeries in the province.

“And the reason that can not happen is because we do not have enough beds in the province of Ontario – that is our problem – and we do not have enough health professionals, doctors and nurses.”

Labelle noted “you have all heard it throughout this pandemic,” that there are not enough health professionals available in the



Representatives of local health coalition groups from Haliburton, Kawartha, Northumberland and Peterborough regions hosted a virtual conference on Feb. 24 to speak out against privatized health care, discuss the impacts on local health care services, and plan for an effective local response./Screenshot from Feb. 24 meeting

province after “decades of cuts to beds and services.”

“Opening surgeries up ... does not increase the number of health professionals, does not give us more beds,” she said.

Instead, Labelle said privatization can lead to user fees, up-selling of “higher level” of surgeries and queue-jumping. In B.C., she said it was demonstrated that those who paid for surgeries took beds away from the public sector, as a bed must be available for that patient making it not available for the public.

“[Private facilities] take resources away, they poach valuable health professionals into the private sector which then leaves the public sector still needing, already beleaguered, already with a shortage with an even bigger shortage,” said Labelle. “They skim the cream. They want higher volume, lower needs-based patients. They pick and choose the patients they care for and they triage based on who can afford to go to the front of the line. The model we use in our public hospitals, which is, whoever needs the care the most, gets the care first.”

“This is a shifting of a public model, and it is a model we believe in, that we have supported, that we have fought for, that we have paid for, for decades through our taxes and

it’s a shift to a for-profit model,” she said.

Labelle said for-profits don’t work, and that, “we don’t have to look any further than the long-term care homes that had tragic death rates throughout this pandemic. The quality of care is not the same.”

Peterborough Health Coalition chair Roy Brady referred to Elliott’s statement as being “clear, blatantly clear privatization,” and said “there’s a need for the provincial government to provide support for our public hospitals.” Private clinics, he said, would “deprive staff from existing under-resourced hospitals.” He questioned who pays for new centres, noting that a corporation or group of medical professionals would need heavy government subsidies, thus “using dollars that haven’t been urgently placed into the staff and operations and the uplifting for public not-for-profit hospitals.”

Bonnie Roe, co-founder of the Haliburton-City of Kawartha Lakes long-term care coalition, said long-term care “is an area where private companies have, for decades, sadly, had a monopoly and been the largest source of funding for long-term care homes.”

Roe said “we have one of the most unparalleled staffing shortages in Ontario history,” and said “this is a disaster not waiting

to happen, it’s a disaster that is happening now.”

She said she was surprised to hear of the provincial government’s \$41 million Extendicare-Haliburton announcement last month, noting the advocacy her group had done in speaking with MPP Laurie Scott, asking her to take their request to end for-profit, long-term care homes to Queen’s Park.

Linda Mackenzie-Nicholas, co-chair of the Northumberland Health Care Coalition, also voiced her concerns regarding what she called “chronic underfunding” in Ontario.

When asked to speak to Elliott’s statement, and the suggestion that it is pro-privatization, Scott told the *Times*: “Our government is committed to supporting the province’s public health care system. We recognize the impact the delay of certain surgeries and procedures has had on patients. These facilities already perform publicly (OHIP) funded procedures and will ensure patients can access the health care they need when they need it. There has been no expansion to the number of independent health facilities who offer publicly funded procedures in Ontario. A new licence for a private hospital in Ontario has not been issued since 1973. In 1980, there were 19 private hospitals licensed to operate in Ontario. Today, there are only four.”

Regarding the Extendicare funding, Scott said: “In 2021, the province issued a Call for Applications for Long-Term Care Home Development and everyone interested in building and redeveloping long-term care homes was welcome to apply, including existing non-profit, for-profit, and municipal long-term care operators, as well as organizations new to the long-term care sector.”

Scott said “It is important to note that funding is allocated to both not-for-profit and for-profit using a funding model with strict eligibility criteria and financial controls that limit the funding that is available for profit taking.” She added the ministry is prioritizing redevelopment of older long-term care homes “to implement the lessons learned on improved infection prevention and control measures, particularly the elimination of three and four bedrooms in which isolation and co-horting has proven difficult.”

The health coalitions plan to hold a Privatization Summit on March 31.

Community connects for 15th year of Friends of the Rail Trail

The Friends of the Rail Trail (FoRT) gathered with members of the community at their It Takes a Village event on Sunday, March 6 to launch their 15th year of “connecting community and rail trail.” The community supper was held at SIRCH’s Bistro where 25 people were in attendance. The event was funded by the Haliburton County Development Corporation and was FoRT’s first public gathering since Jan. 2020, said Chairwoman Pamela Marsales. Just over two years later, the Friends of the Rail Trail are eager and excited to celebrate their 15th anniversary with trail gatherings, events, and activities throughout the year. This will start with a Sunday Ramble walk, one of 15 planned for 2022, on March 27 at 11 a.m. beginning at the town docks in Haliburton Village. FoRT welcomes new volunteers, and their community events and gatherings are open to anyone who would like to join.

Submitted by Vivian Collings



Above, after the documentary screening, attendees reminisced about past rail trail experiences and looked forward to future adventures./Photos by Vivian Collings

Left, SIRCH Bistro Chef David Copestick served country chicken vegetable soup, roasted vegetable quiche, and fresh bumbleberry crumble for dessert at the Friends of the Rail Trail’s It Takes a Village Community Supper.



Unlock your next read

Locker number 1 of the Dorset Depot Library Lockers, which are temporarily in place outside of Robinson's General Store in Dorset until a facility for a book depot can be accessed, has been assigned. On Feb. 23, Haliburton County Public Library CEO Chris Stephenson, together with another staff member, conducted a dry run to test the service, which launched officially on Feb. 28. "It was a cold and icy day, but the patron was delighted to be assigned locker number 1," said Stephenson. "... We're really excited about this launch and getting library materials into the hands of community members." A new library courier will be travelling to Dorset on Saturdays beginning March 12 to drop off book bags and collect returned materials. For more information call 705-457-2241 or email illo@haliburtonlibrary.ca. /Photo submitted by HCPL



And they're off

Highlands resident Karen Koehler races with her dogs Much, left, and Mighty during the first ever OFSS (Ontario Federation of Sleddog Sports) Winter Fun Race at Killara Station on Saturday, March 5. With nine competitors, Koehler was the class of the field as a past IFSS World Championship competitor for Canada and she swept all the categories (five kilometre one and two dog, 2.6 kilometre one and two dog and the one kilometre costume race) except for the Kid and Mutt 700 metre race. Other locals who competed were Tara DeLaurier whose top finish was an eighth in the 2.6 kilometre one dog, and Angela McGreevy finished second in the costume race. Organizers hope to hold the event next year. /DARREN LUM Staff



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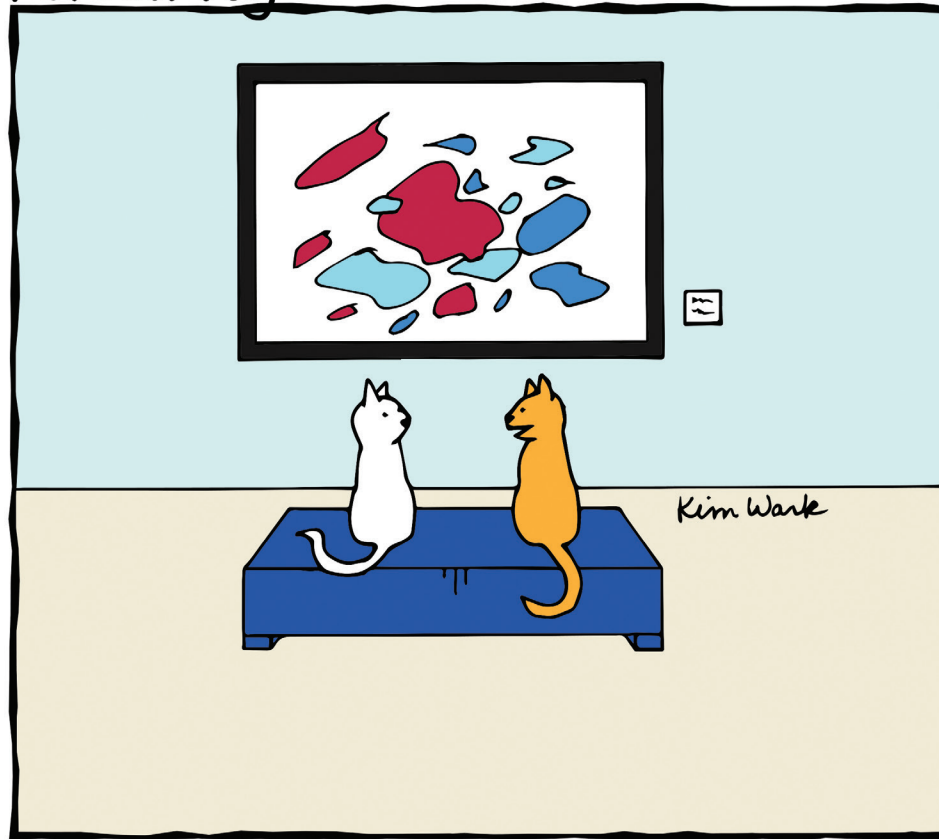
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IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Kwarky



“You call that art? A dog could paint that.”

Helping hands

THROUGHOUT THE pandemic, the Minden Community Food Centre has seen a greater need for the services it offers, while the team that keeps it going has tried to safely maneuver through provincial restrictions and public health measures. Volunteers have stayed healthy, the Christmas hamper program in a new drive-through format was still able to happen – last year 172 hampers were distributed – and the Food Centre stayed open to help more than 225 registered families despite managing over these past two years with a smaller team of 10 rather than 45 volunteers.

Now, the longtime community helpers who fill the manager and assistant manager role are retiring.

Joanne Barnes has been the manager at the Food Centre for 18 years. Joanne didn’t just take a job and mindlessly clock in and out each day. She put time – countless hours – and energy into looking at how she could make something benefitting the community even better, more efficient, more organized and more comprehensive. She’s long tried to share the realities



SUE TIFFIN
Editor

of what food insecurity looks like for residents in this county and has advocated behind the scenes for individuals when they’ve needed help. She hasn’t stopped, not through cancer treatment years ago, not through those first trying weeks of the pandemic, even doing the literal heavy lifting when required. She won’t fully stop, either, continuing to manage the Fuel for Warmth organization to ensure everyone has a source of heat throughout the winter.

For her efforts, she’s been applauded and awarded throughout the years, but the stories she focuses on are from those who simply said “thank you,” who she knows she was able to help in some way.

Kim Russell couldn’t bear to think about kids being hungry and wanted to help so she signed up to volunteer about 14 years ago. When people showed up at the door in need, Kim’s first response over the years was to offer them a hug – a

gesture that likely made all the difference for people in the vulnerable position of needing to ask for support. She went from volunteering one day a week, to working two days a week at the Food Centre and was approached by many people over the years feeling desperate with tears in their eyes who went home with renewed hope because of her nurturing care and compassion.

The Minden Community Food Centre (previously known as the Minden Food Bank) has been in existence for more than three decades now. Through former and current staff and volunteers, it offers more than what most people think of when they think of a food bank – that’s why it’s now called a Food Centre. The community kitchen can be used to make meals for people struggling after a spouse passes away, and to teach kids how to make a healthy meal. Medical equipment is available through a loaning library, clean used clothing is available for free, a match program helps connect people with furniture after fleeing their homes due to violence or fires, and supplies are sourced for school-aged children so they can attend

school comfortably. Our Food Centre, unlike many food banks, offers meat, dairy and perishable products as a small distribution hub, ensuring people can eat healthy, quality meals to keep them going.

It takes a big team of people to organize and keep that running, and for the past many years, Joanne and Kim have been leading that team of hard-working and caring volunteers.

Thank you to both for their dedication, for being stewards of the Minden Community Food Centre and for advocating for friends, family and neighbours in our community to ensure fewer people in Haliburton County have gone to bed hungry over the years.

A very warm welcome, too, to Jean Munroe and Victoria Lawson, who have stepped up to fill the leadership roles and are looking to do good and support this community.

Crappie behaviour

LATELY, I have been tying dozens of flies and dreaming of spring fishing. This is an affliction that takes hold of me each year right about now. The only difference is the affliction is manifesting itself in a very uncharacteristic way this year.

You see, of late, I have fixated on the idea of targeting spring crappie. And why not? Crappie are one of the best tasting panfish in our waters.

Here’s the problem though. I don’t know much about crappie fishing. If this surprises you, don’t feel too bad. Heck, it even surprised my best fishing buddy.

In fact, when I casually suggested, “I’m not a crappie fisherman,” he just looked at me and said, “Oh Steve, I beg to differ.”

Yes, he has been with me when I have caught a crappie or two, but he was being uncharacteristically kind.

The truth is I don’t know a lot about crappie fishing because, come spring, I spend most of my time chasing brook trout or wild turkeys. As a result, crappie fishing is not something I am known for – which is another sentence my best fishing buddy strongly disagreed with.

I like to think of myself as a student of fishing, however. So lately, I have been reading books and on-line articles on the subject and trying to figure out what I need in terms of fishing gear, flies, and knowledge to find and catch big crappies. Because anyone can catch small crappies. The trick is finding the big ones – also known as slabs.

That’s why, I have been studying very hard. So hard that Jenn even asked me what I was so immersed in. At the time I was

reading about crappie behaviour. And I said as much.

“Let me get this straight,” she said. “You are actually reading about understanding crappie behaviour?”

“Yes,” I said.

Jenn must have remembered that time when I caught a few crappies off the town dock because she then exclaimed that, in her experience, it seemed like I knew everything a person needs to know about crappie behaviour.

“Oh, stop it,” I said, while blushing just a bit.

“I just hope you use what you learn to better yourself,” she replied

That, of course, is the idea. By the time spring arrives I will be completely up to date on the best tactics and techniques needed to find and catch big slab crappies. That’s not to say that I’m going to give up on trout and turkeys. It just means I will add one more skill to my spring fishing repertoire.

Why do this you ask?

I’ll be honest with you. I think it’s about time I lived up to all the hype.

You see for years people have wrongly assumed I am a good angler when it comes to panfish. And, like most anglers, who are wrongfully complimented, I have not corrected them once. Unlike most anglers, however, I have always been embarrassed by this lie of omission. So, this year, I’m going to do something about it.

Yes, this year when someone points at me and says, “There’s Steve Galea. Everyone says he is a crappie angler” I’m going to make sure they were not lying.

Which is something that my best fishing buddy says I should never worry about. But, again, he’s being too kind.



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

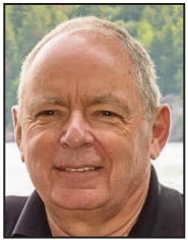
Music in a mad world

I'M TOLD that music is good for the soul. As someone with little interest and zero ability in music, I've never really got into that. Until last week.

I was doing my thrice-daily news read, an addiction I can't shake even though the news reports become bleaker and darker by the day. Unrelenting slaughter in Ukraine, yet another refugee crisis, increasing food shortages, urban violence, political polarization. The list gets longer, and older.

It's depressing. The world seems on a collision course with Hell. There is no hope.

Then I hear a beautifully hopeful voice coming from a television set in another room. It is the voice of a sightless man who has experienced misfortune and misery, but sings with hope and belief.



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

It is Andrea Bocelli, the classical-contemporary superstar tenor, singing songs from his latest album Believe – (I Believe, Gratia Plena, Hallelujah, You'll Never Walk Alone). The album has been marketed as a celebration of the power of music to soothe the soul.

I turned off the news and went to watch the broadcast of Bocelli singing from spectacular settings in Malta and Tuscany. The more he sang, the more comforted I felt and the anger that has built inside me against a world gone mad began to dissipate.

"Good music brings with it a powerful message of peace and fellowship, teaching us about beauty, and helping us to open our hearts and minds," Bocelli has said.

Bocelli, now 63, was diagnosed with congenital glaucoma when he was an infant. He lost all vision at age 12 following a soccer accident.

Doctors had warned his pregnant mother that he likely would be born with a disability and suggested she abort him.

She didn't, of course, and he became a talented musician at an early age, learning to play the piano, flute and saxophone. He might have been expected to study music in university but studied law instead, singing in piano bars to help finance his education.

A sightless man who learns to play three musical instruments, earns a law degree and becomes a world-renowned professional singer has got to make anyone have hope.

The Believe concert that I watched was a repeat of the original broadcast last summer. However, the timing of the replay was perfect, coming as the Russian slaughter of Ukraine became more depressing.

The concert song with the most powerful message was You'll Never Walk Alone. In tones sometimes soft, sometimes soaring, Bocelli delivered a clearly inspirational message for Ukrainians and the millions who support them.

*Walk on through the wind
Walk on through the rain
Though your dreams be tossed and blown
Walk on, walk on
With hope in your heart
And you'll never walk alone*

The Ukrainians have been walking on through the shooting and bombings, fighting against the most hateful savagery since Hitler.

Songs and words will never save the world from the savagery of the Russians. However, they do provide some comfort from the distress. Like physical exercise, music has been shown to increase oxytocin and serotonin levels in the brain, both of which can be mood boosters.

No amount of oxytocin and serotonin will ever be enough to soothe the anger of Vladimir Putin, the former KBG spy and feral beast intent on eliminating Ukraine and its people.

There is increasing speculation that nothing will change Putin because he is physically ill. British newspapers have reported that photos show his face ashen and puffy, possibly from drugs taken for a serious illness – Parkinson's or even cancer.

Researchers studying film of Putin say he walks with his left arm not moving and when sitting, his fingers are twitching. His face and neck appear bloated.

The bloating has led to speculation that he is being treated with steroids, which can cause facial swelling, plus mood and behavioural changes.

There has been much speculation over the years about Putin's health. It possibly is just hopeful speculation, or outright propaganda.

There was similar speculation about Donald Trump's health when he was U.S. president. There were reports that he was suffering from Parkinson's.

Turns out he wasn't. The only thing unhealthy about Trump was a severely twisted personality.



Good morning

Ken Comer was out for his morning walk on March 8 when he captured this image of solitude on Moore Lake. /Photo by Ken Comer

letters to the editor

Honouring Hazel by helping women

To the Editor,

Since 1998, the YWCA has honoured Hazel's vision of helping women pursue their dreams and overcoming barriers related to their experiences of violence and abuse. Hazel was a consumer, advisor, and volunteer of several community services. Hazel passed away in 1996, after a long struggle with breast cancer. Soon afterwards an education fund was created by friends and admirers to honour this very special woman.

YWCA Hazel Education Bursary is intended to help women who have experienced gender-based violence reach their goals through education or training.

A call for applications to the Hazel Education Bursary opens on International Women's Day [March 8] and closes May 8.

YWCA Peterborough Haliburton Board of Directors, through the Education Awards

Committee, and with the generosity of donors in our community, offers bursaries of \$1,500 or \$2,500 to women who have experienced barriers related to the impact of violence and abuse; have a dream to strengthen their economic security; are a resident of Peterborough or Haliburton County; seek to further their formal or informal education, or develop skills.

Please note: Women from rural areas will be given special consideration for this award, as per Hazel's request.

To learn more about YWCA Hazel Education Bursary or to apply please visit ywcapeterborough.org/education/ or contact Yvonne at 705-743-3526 ext. 116 or yporter@ywcapeterborough.org.

Yvonne Porter

YWCA Peterborough Haliburton

HCPL's Jr. Book of the Month - March



Sixteen-year-old Dekka lives in fear and anticipation of the blood ceremony that will determine her future. Already ostracized because of her unnatural intuition, Dekka prays for red blood so she can finally feel like she belongs.

But on the day of the ceremony, her blood runs gold, the color of impurity – and Dekka knows she will face a consequence worse than death.

Then a mysterious woman comes to her with a choice: Submit to her fate, or fight for the emperor in an army of girls just like her. The Alaki-near-immortals with rare gifts—are the only ones who can stop the empire's greatest threat.

But as she journeys to the capital to train for the biggest battle of her life, Dekka will discover that nothing and no one are what they seem to be – not even Dekka herself.

Formidable heroines and a thoughtful feminist mythology distinguish debut author Namina Forna's

West Africa-inspired fantasy trilogy launch. Check it out today from Haliburton County Public Library.

Supporting Ukraine from Haliburton County

by **SUE TIFFIN**
Editor

A few years back, Maryssa Danilko visited Ukraine, the home country of her grandparents.

Her memories of that visit are vivid, painting an image of cities where people “hustle and bustle,” and a countryside that is very poor but where the hospitality is warm and welcoming, and visitors are greeted with “very open arms.”

Following Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine beginning February 24, Danilko said she feels as though she’s in shock.

“I just feel like at a loss, almost,” she said days after Russian president Vladimir Putin authorized airstrikes across Ukraine, and Russian convoys began advancing into the country. “I’ve been kind of battling tears for the last couple days.”

The Minden resident has been trying to follow what’s been happening as attacks are reported throughout Ukraine, through family, friends, and eyewitness accounts shared online.

“I’m hopeful, but I’m fearful, absolutely,” she said. “The stress and anxiety that I feel for them is unbearable.”

Military reservists aged 18 to 60 have been called to service and many of the country’s more than 44 million residents are attempting to flee the cities or the country as the invasion intensifies.

“Basically the men are joining the fight and women and children are staying at their countryside homes, because everyone is fleeing the cities, so they’re going to their parents,” said Danilko. “Women and children are just getting on the trains and trying to leave, saying goodbye to their husbands and fathers and grandfathers, saying, you know, we hope to see you again. It’s really, really, sad. I cannot even imagine going through that. I can’t even imagine.”

The stories Danilko has been hearing tell of a Ukrainian resistance, one fighting to keep independence gained when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.

“I have a friend whose 70-year-old uncle joined the army himself, just because he was a welder by trade and thought he could help, and they’ve put him on the sidelines to help fix artillery and things,” she said. “People are standing up for their country. People are joining on their own will and merit. It’s so sad, but it’s so nice to hear that people are not just giving in.”

Canada’s Ukrainian population is one of the largest outside of Ukraine and Russia, with about 1.4 million people identifying as Ukrainian Canadian.

“Everyone’s feeling it,” said Danilko. “Everyone has this connection. Not just family but it’s this nationalistic pride. Ukrainians are very proud to be Ukrainian. I’m sure lots of cultures have that. But it’s definitely affecting all of us.”

Danilko said she grew up hearing stories of how her grandparents – both from the west side of Ukraine, just on the outskirts of Lviv – survived, ultimately having to flee the country.

Her maternal grandmother was born in 1910 or so, and fled during The Holodomor, or Great Famine, in the 1930s, when millions of Ukrainians died.

“She was burying food in the earth just to feed her family,” said Danilko.

Her grandmother’s mother died when she was around 20, and she was being raised by her grandmother but “it was just a hard life,” said Danilko.

“At 14, she took her sister, and they ran, they went to France,” she said. “They worked in kitchens and as farmhands until they could



Bill Kulas has been in close contact with his cousin Ivan Fratsovir and his family, wife Olga and sons. "So far they are safe in western Ukraine," said Bill Kulas. "They cannot believe what Putin has unleashed on their country." /Photo submitted

get their own strength on their own two feet. They were running until they hit Canada. But by Canada she already had three kids, and came to Canada by herself, without my grandfather ... You can only be grateful that she had the strength to make a better life for herself. And that’s what these people are trying to fight for. They’re just trying to fight for a better life. They’re not, you know, they’re not going to succumb to political pressure and greed, so they’re just trying to fight for freedom.”

Danilko’s father’s family came to Canada during the time in the ‘60s and ‘70s when land in Northern Alberta was being offered to immigrants.

“They were handing out free land as long as you could farm it, and they were literally by train just trucking in [thousands] of these Ukrainians at the time to try to build up Canada. That’s how we ended up here. But if it wasn’t for my grandmother, I’d be there.”

Danilko’s parents met in Toronto, where she was raised attending Ukrainian immersion school, and Saturday school, until Grade 8, developing a love for Ukrainian dance, and a strong understanding of Ukrainian history, geography, literature and language.

She met Minden resident Alex Danilko in Innisfil, when she attended a pig roast celebrating the Ukrainian community at an onion farm owned by Boris Horodynsky. Alex’s parents – Roger and Susan – harvested wood for Horodynsky and he was in attendance at the same party, where the two met.

“When I came up to this community, nine years ago, it’s always been a passion of mine to dance and have culture, because I’m so strongly connected to the Ukrainian culture, I just thought, well, why not try to bring it here,” said Danilko, who helped to partner The Nutcracker with the Verba Ukrainian Dance Company from Winnipeg, and was instrumental in bringing the Lemon Bucket Orchestra to town in 2020.

“And it wasn’t even me bringing it here. It was me showcasing it here, but there were already a lot of Ukrainians here. With the lineage of, oh, my aunt is Ukrainian, my grandmother was Ukrainian. So, it was really nice to see the community come together here too.”

While Danilko hears reports from cousins and friends, she’s connecting here with members of the Ukrainian-Canadian community experiencing the same worry from afar, and those not connected to the community who share concern.

“It’s so lovely, everyone’s been reaching out,” said Danilko. “People that have a connection, people that don’t and it’s just been so

uplifting. I feel very supported. It’s just very nice for people to simply say, ‘hey I’m here and it’s just messed up what’s going on and I’m with you.’ It’s nice to know you’re not alone.”

Though the situation is one of stress, Danilko is also finding hope in the resistance.

“I think people are really coming together,” she said. “It’s no surprise for this Ukrainian community. But I think people are really coming together and standing their ground ... Just hoping that on the news, the next village in the paper isn’t going to be the village that your mother came from. It hits, really close to home.”

Ukrainian pride

Bill Kulas said he’s proud that his grandkids are fifth generation Ukrainian Canadians.

“We’re Canadians first and foremost but proud of our Ukrainian heritage,” he said.

While Bill’s wife Ginger is of Scottish descent, Kulas said before his mom passed away she spent several years sharing Ukrainian tradition with Ginger, including Easter egg decorating which Ginger has taught throughout the years in Haliburton County.

“She just did it out of respect for my ancestry,” said Kulas. “Ukrainian Easter egg decorating is 1,000 years old. So when Putin says there’s no such thing as Ukraine, and the Ukraine language, and they shouldn’t be in existence, you know, you’ve got an evil, evil person who’s inflicting terrible, terrible things upon a people, their language, culture and way of life. This is not something that’s new.”

Kulas said his family spoke of the horrific starvation of Joseph Stalin’s Holodomor.

“I remember ancestors talking about it – they would have to grab pieces of grass and dandelions and put it in a pot of water and try to survive on that,” he said.

On his mom’s side, his family came to Canada in 1906. On his dad’s side, 1913.

“My dad came with a pillow case, two shirts and \$5,” said Kulas. “My mother was of Polish and Romanian descent. My dad was from the Carpathian Mountains in Ukraine – very much like Haliburton County with big hills and forests.”

Bill’s dad came by ship, landing in Halifax, then travelling by train through Montreal into the silver mining area of Cobalt, Ontario, where family had already arrived.

“Then my dad went to Rouyn-Noranda in northwestern Quebec, and was one of the first pioneers to open the gold mine of Rouyn, Quebec. He went by dog team in the

wintertime.”

At some point after arriving in Canada, Kulas said his father shortened his name from the family name of Kolotylo.

“He had some relatives that were in the Ottawa Valley, and the last name was Kulas,” he said. “He thought that was easier to spell ... Imagine coming as a 16-year-old to Canada with a pillowcase and \$5 in your pocket, and two shirts, and that’s it and not being able to read, write or speak the language. So the name got shortened to Kulas.”

Kulas said his parents met in Montreal.

“I’m proud of my family,” he said. “It’s out of respect for them that I feel for the people in Europe.”

He said his family was pro-democracy and pro-freedom in Quebec, and were not able to visit Ukraine because of that.

“My family were a threat to the Russian communist regime, so they were never able to go back and visit their family,” he said.

Now, Kulas keeps in touch with family spread throughout Ontario and out west, and those who continue to live in Ukraine. His cousin, Ivan Fratsovir, lives there with his wife and children.

“They’re closer to the Polish border, they’re in Western Ukraine, and it’s more rugged territory so it’d be tough for tanks to get to where they are, that’s for sure,” said Kulas. “He’s been very optimistic.”

The cousins can text back and forth using an app that translates their messages from English to Ukrainian, and Ukrainian to English.

A text from Ivan reads: “It is very scary that everything happened that way, and it is unbelievable that Russia attacked Ukraine. People are panicking, hiding in the subway, some have already left their homes. Rockets are falling all over our country, but we will not hand over our Ukraine to the occupiers. Putin wants to seize the capital, Belarus has supported Russia but I think everything will pass, everything will be fine. Thank you for your support.”

“Pretty brave,” said Kulas. “Hopefully God sees the wrongs and blesses the people being affected and that things get better. The strong religious beliefs and upbringing of the Ukrainian people is what’s holding them up.”

Seeking a good life

Haliburton resident Jennifer Mykolyshtyn said she’s not one to post on social media very frequently, but the invasion of Ukraine has made her want to connect and share in a different way.

“It’s been emotional,” she said. “I’ve been reading articles like crazy. I never had Twitter, I never had TikTok, I never read *The Kyiv Independent*. I can’t stop looking. But I’m also trying to maintain my health. And also for my family members, I have to take breaks, only look at the news one or two times. But at the same time there’s a huge sense of guilt, that you can’t be with them and you only have to watch and feel it and know it, that they’re there. It’s this weird balancing thing.”

Mykolyshtyn said while she’s had feelings or opinions about world events over the past few years, this time she feels directly connected.

“It’s affecting me and my family and it’s just ... it’s an unreal thing,” she said. “When I’m imagining it’s happening, I imagine it’s our community here. What would it be like to take up arms with the people I work with and the people I live around, and have to do that?”

Her grandparents arrived in Canada by ship in the late-1940s and early 1950s, having been displaced by the Second World War.

Mykolyshtyn said in her family, there has always been much love, and big meals.

Residents worry and hope for loved ones in crisis

from page 8

“You can go anywhere in the world and a fellow Ukrainian will show you that love,” she said. “That’s just the way it always has been before any of this. There was always a sense of strength and a sense of love and unconditional caring. Strength and toughness. Ukrainians have a long history of war, war with Russia, suffering genocide, starvation, pain, and they always come through and survive.”

A few years ago, Mykolyshyn visited family who lives outside of Ukraine. Her cousin, she said, moved out decades ago.

“Ukraine has been a difficult place to live under Russian-sympathetic rulers, corruption and not a lot of opportunity sometimes,” she said. Her cousin learned a new language in her 30s, brought her family and started a new business in another country, the location which Mykolyshyn does not want published to protect the security of her family.

“She has created this safe space to have a good life,” she said. “That’s what it’s always been, is to go get the good life. That’s why people came to Canada, for a good life. That’s what my grandparents did. They took crazy steps, left their families, left their home, left everything ... The crazy thing is it’s happening again and they’re being pulled back into it. I can’t even imagine working so hard and living this good life and then all of a sudden you’re pulled back into this bad dream again. It’s – how do you stop this?”

Now, her cousins are returning to Ukraine to help protect the country from occupation.

“They’re amazing and wonderful and welcomed me with open arms and were so generous – cooked for me, taught me how to make borscht and pyrohy. I’ve had some really wonderful times with them and it’s just so weird to have it go from that, to ...”

Mykolyshyn and her dad regularly speak with family – her dad speaks Ukrainian and will translate, or Mykolyshyn uses a translator to text. A few days ago, her family gathered for a dinner.



Maryssa Danilko, on floor, her sister, Baba Sophia, and mom Oksana Kulyk (Cheremchowicz) wearing traditional head coverings in her grandmother’s town of Morshen. /Photo submitted by Maryssa Danilko

“They had a farewell dinner because they’re going back,” said Mykolyshyn. “There’s a lot of Ukrainian nationals that are going back to fight because it’s a duty. There’s no question. They can’t just let their country be taken over. It’s non-negotiable, it’s just the way it is.”

Mykolyshyn said the experience of seeing her family go through this has brought new perspective.

“Before this, I’ve been feeling that I haven’t had a lot of choice,” she said. “Being a millennial, the housing market exploding, not being able to buy a house, in other areas, too, feeling like I don’t have a lot of choice. But now I realize very much that we have every choice. We have every choice and freedom. My understanding of what freedom really is, is now very clear.”

Her worry has caused Mykolyshyn to take action, attempting to help through showing support from Haliburton County.

“Seeing all of the support and the rallies all over the world,

the lighting up of the major cities, the Eiffel tower, it actually feels good to me,” she said. “It consoles me. It makes me feel like the whole world cares and is watching. There’s a feeling of unity. But I also see how every day things are ramping up.”

Besides personally donating to agencies helping those in need, she is looking into how she can help with a fundraiser, has ordered a flag for her car to promote continued awareness locally of the situation in Ukraine and after reaching out to Dysart et al, has confirmed the municipality will raise a flag to show support.

“I was surprised and happy, comforted to know, that people who are not Ukrainian or don’t have a Ukrainian background are feeling similar to what I am feeling, which is helplessness, wanting to do something,” she said. “There’s unity there, and humanity, of seeing people experiencing this and how wrong it is and needs to be stopped.”

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ONTARIO
Yours to discover

Winter looking good for deer thus far

by STEVE GALEA
Special to the Times

If winter doesn't stick around longer than it should, Haliburton's deer herds will likely enter spring in good shape.

Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Natural Resources and Forestry (MNDMNR) senior research scientist Brent Patterson said, "Generally speaking, it is looking like it will be a mild to moderate winter, which should have minimal impact to deer survival and recruitment."

Dr. Patterson pointed out that snow arrived relatively late this year in central Ontario, with very little snow accumulation until mid-January. This gave deer a reprieve from challenges brought on by snow accumulations early in the season.

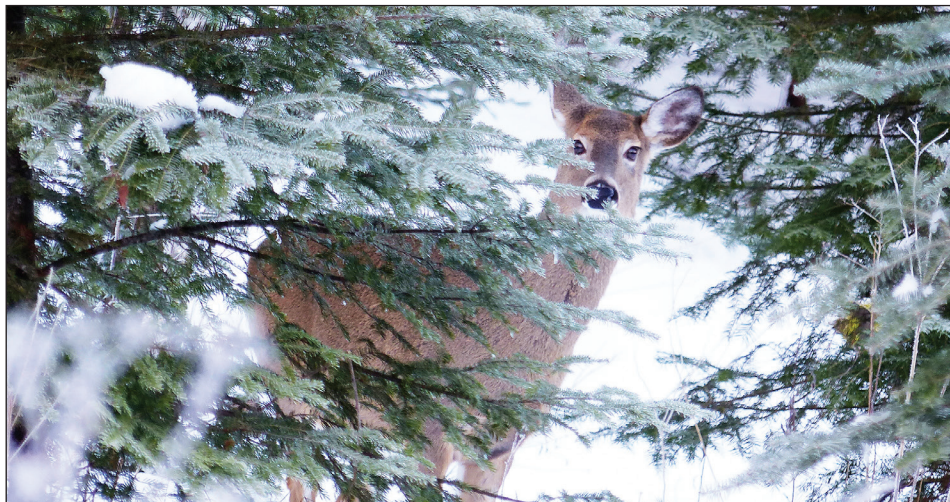
"Snow depth has a much greater impact on deer in winter than cold temperatures. Deep snows are detrimental to deer by reducing access to browse and forage, increasing locomotion costs, and increasing vulnerability to predators like wolves and coyotes," he explained.

"Although cold temperatures increase the energetic demand on deer, they are able to partially compensate for this by reducing activity, having lower metabolism in winter, and choosing habitats that minimize exposure to wind. In winter, deer also maximize exposure to the midday sun and favour south facing slopes," he added.

Patterson noted that our current snow depth is very similar to last year, with just over 40 centimetres on the ground during the first week of February.

Last year, the Percy Lake snow station had a final snow (or Snow Depth Index) accumulation of 507 centimetres in total throughout the winter. Anything under 590 centimetres is considered a mild winter. This year, that total is less than last year; the first week of February data for the Percy Lake snow station was at 175 centimetres compared to 241 centimetres at the same time last year.

"Using a predictive model based on snow depth index, a value of less than 300 centimetres in the first week of February would sug-



This winter so far has proven to be favourable for the deer population, which is expected to enter spring in good shape. /Submitted by Steve Galea

gest a less than 25 per cent chance of having a severe winter outcome," he said.

Patterson said, "A large body of research suggests that whereas cold temperatures have only a minor impact on deer survival, prolonged periods with deep snows can drastically reduce winter survival of deer. Generally, snow depths greater than 30 centimetres can measurably increase a deer's vulnerability to predation, but snow density can be as influential as snow depth in determining impacts on deer."

Snow depths exceeding 30 centimetres have not been experienced for long periods this winter thus far and there was even a short period when snow depth drastically decreased due to weather conditions.

Snow crusts can also affect deer in winter by inhibiting deer movement and access to available foods. Patterson said this winter several freeze/thaw cycles have created some detrimental snow crusting.

Food availability is another constant concern in winter.

"During the winter months, deer in most of Ontario subsist on a diet of low-quality food," Patterson said. "The major food at this time of year is browse which is comprised of the woody twigs and buds of deciduous trees and

shrubs, and conifer leaves from trees such as cedar and hemlock. Browse is low in protein and energy and high in fibre. Even with an unlimited food supply, deer on this winter diet will lose weight because energy demands are greater than supply as large amounts of fibre food are costly to process."

Despite this, Patterson says deer feeding is strongly discouraged – a point the ministry has been trying to get across for years.

Feeding is risky because it causes deer to become habituated, and the wrong feed mixes can lead to digestion issues and potentially death. Additionally, a variety of feeding diseases have been documented in deer that have been fed improper diets. Habituated deer are at greater risk of causing motorized vehicle collisions as they cross roadways to get to feeding locations and Patterson notes they also pose a potentially greater threat of injury for pets and humans because feeding brings them in close proximity. Lastly, he says, congregating deer at feeding sites also means increasing the risk of them passing diseases and parasites to each other.

He said he understands the draw of deer feeding, but says the risks to the deer outweigh the benefits.

"Deer are naturally adapted to survive win-

ter with stored fat reserves by restricting activities and reduced feeding. Artificial feeding works against these adaptations by preventing the normal seasonal reduction in metabolic rate. This could result in increased energy demands that offset the advantages of supplying artificial food. If you have deer wintering on your property, you can assist them in other ways, by creating trails (by snowshoeing or with vehicles) and by cutting browse that would otherwise be out of reach," he said. He also says its best not to disturb deer with loud machinery, approaching too close or using snowmobiles, especially during hard winters, as this saps much needed energy from them.

Despite some of the challenges our deer are facing this winter, Patterson says this winter has, thus far, been good to them. Even predators such as wolves are generally less effective during mild winters, because deer movement and energy levels are not inhibited by deep snow and severe cold.

Though this winter has been relatively mild, Patterson cautions that winter is not over yet.

"While we are nearing the end of winter, there are still some factors that may be of concern for local deer populations. The duration of winter can impact the length of time deer spend in winter yards, thus affecting their physical condition coming into spring; this can be particularly important for pregnant females. Given the late start to the winter of 2022, this is not anticipated to be a concern; however, weather systems are becoming more variable, so spring conditions cannot be predicted. Other early spring conditions, such as timing of green up and frosts, can affect food supply and productivity too."

And deer that have made it through a long winter can be very vulnerable to a poor or delayed spring.

Having said that, in the Haliburton area (Wildlife Management Units 54 and 56), trends in deer seen per hunter day and hunter harvest levels have been increasing since 2015 and are nearing the top end of the long-term range of values.

If the season continues as it has, this winter is not likely to change that.

Haliburton County's fish hatchery needs you

by JERELYN CRADEN
Special to the Times

Imagine, the pristine destination of Haliburton County with 600 lakes and no fish. Now, imagine the far-reaching negative impact that could have on the Highland's

local economy.

Fortunately, thanks to the members of the volunteer-run organization, the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association (HHOA), this isn't going to happen. The HHOA, who helps with educating the public, raising fish at its fish hatchery, located on Gelert Road, and stocking lakes in Haliburton County, needs to bolster its ranks.

"At one time we had over 400 members," said Eric Christensen, HHOA secretary and past president. "Now we have over 100. We need a good solid membership base. We have about 40 people who are actively involved on a weekly basis at the hatchery all year round. People get older, they move away, they move into retirement homes, so we're constantly in need of fresh blood."

Since 1999, the HHOA, with its fish hatchery has raised and stocked more than 700,000 fish in more than 100 lakes across Haliburton County and surrounding areas.

"We raise 35,000 fish every year," Christensen said.

Joining the HHOA is all about being able to give back to the community and share that sense of achievement with others.

"The hatchery is a great place to get to meet a lot of really nice people and spend a couple hours once a week with a crew of other people to feed and care for the fish" he said.

HHOA members enjoy the option of joining four clubs: archery, fly fishing, bass, and outdoors. With a healthy focus on youth initiatives and programs – youth, 18 and under, can join HHOA clubs for free.

Other benefits of being a member include a 15 per cent discount off all purchases at the outdoors store, Outdoor Plus in Haliburton, and, will receive a monthly newsletter giving details about where fish are being stocked in the lakes. Kind of an insider's guide to where to go fishing for the fish.

The HHOA also has a need for volunteers with a diverse set of skills, with possibilities to help with marketing, operations, managing the office and more. Various volunteer committees include: the hatchery crew, fundraiser events, wetlands/outdoor restoration projects, educational programs, and club committees. Popular annual events, which needs volunteers, include: the Wild Game Dinner, Septemberfest, Family Day and Catch the Ace Lottery.

The annual HHOA membership is \$40 per year and discounted for members of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. Join the HHOA and support local fishing by becoming a new member, volunteer or sponsor. Or, simply donate at: www.hhoa.on.ca.

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GET TO KNOW THE HUSKIES: PEYTON SCHALY

by **ALEX GALLACHER**
Special to the Times

Since being added to the Huskies roster following a trade with Wellington, Peyton Schaly has been a force on the Huskies offensive line. With nine goals and 16 points in 22 games, the player from Barrie, has loved his time in Haliburton County, but said playing hockey is about a love for the sport.

Coming from a hockey family, Schaly found his love of the game from his dad and uncle, who were both players at the time. Schaly started to play hockey at a very young age, growing up with a backyard rink. Finding his footing in the OJHL (Ontario Junior Hockey League) shortly after, big things were on the horizon.

"When I was little my dad and my uncle both played hockey," Schaly said. "We lived right beside each other so we always had a backyard rink growing up."

Starting out his career with the Brockville Braves of the CCHL (Central Canada Hockey League), Schaly played in the OJHL starting in 2018. First with the Aurora Tigers, then joining the Collingwood Blues/ Colts, Schaly moved over to the Wellington Dukes before being traded to the Huskies alongside Cameron Kosurko and Jonah Cochrane.

"I started when I was 17," Schaly added. "I was in the CCHL before being traded to Aurora. I've been on a couple of teams since, and it's a great league and I've enjoyed playing in it."

Last year, on Nov. 4, Schaly was added in the aforementioned trade from Wellington. Having played the Huskies as a member of the Dukes, moving to a new team within the division was daunting, but overall very exciting.

Coming over with two of his teammates, the change in both fan capacity and teammates as a whole was a very exciting experience for Schaly.

"I was very excited to find out I was traded here," Schaly said. "It's a great group of guys and great fans. It's a great atmosphere with great coaching, the energy on the ice and in the room makes it an amazing place to play."

Following his hockey career with the Huskies, Schaly plans to continue playing. As of 2022-23, he will be heading to the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) D3 to play with the Plymouth State Panthers in New Hampshire. Assuming that goes well, Schaly wants to go pro after graduation. Looking at a career in Europe or a possible career in the ECHL (East Coast Hockey League) or AHL (American Hockey League), it doesn't appear he will be putting down a hockey stick anytime soon.

It looks like he does have a preferred country, one famous for automotive manufacturer Mercedes-Benz and Oktoberfest.

"My uncle played in Germany," Schaly said. "So my goal is to follow him over there, he also played D3 as well. So I really do hope to follow the path he kinda laid out."

During a season of highs, Schaly's favourite moment of the season so far was his first home goal as a member of the Huskies. Coming on Dec. 17 against the Toronto Jr. Canadiens, Schaly was blown away by the atmosphere. The S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena is usually packed to the brim with fans, eager to watch the Huskies play.

Schaly's goal ended up being the one goal the Huskies needed to pull out the win that night, and he never did forget that moment.

"The energy here is insane," Schaly added. "When you score a goal here the bench gets fired up. The crowd's energy is unreal, and to be honest it's one of the best feelings ever. I love the rink, it always looks packed every night. You feel like the fans are on top of you and it's amazing."

Playing with the Huskies is an honour unlike no other. Wearing the Huskies' crest on his chest is something that only a handful of guys get to do on a daily basis. For Schaly, being a Huskies' player is more than just hockey. It's family.

"It's an honour," Schaly said. "The town loves you, you gotta represent the team very well. I think that's one of the best things about playing here."

Like a few members of the Huskies, Schaly does have a special talent. If his hockey career doesn't work out, a career as a carnival entertainer might be on the horizon.

"I'm a pretty good juggler," Schaly said with a laugh.



Haliburton County Huskies forward Peyton Schaly has appreciated the opportunity to play, the community and the fans. Schaly's love of hockey comes from his family. / FILE DARREN LUM Staff

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Red Hawks alumni curlers rock the OCAAs

Jessica Byers, Liam Little, and Jacob Dobson, three alumni from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, rocked the podium at the Ontario College Athletic Association (OCAA) Curling Championships, coming home with two golds and a silver medal. Byers and Dobson curl for the Humber Hawks Varsity team, with Byers as the second on the women's team and Dobson as the lead on the men's team. Little curls lead for the Mohawk Mountaineers.

This five-day college provincial championship, which was held in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, began with round robin play from Thursday, Feb. 17 to Sunday, Feb. 20. The gold medal games were held on Feb. 21. At the end of round-robin play, both the Humber women's and men's teams secured the No. 1 position and a berth into the gold medal games.

The Humber women's team only lost one game in round-robin play and the Humber men's team went undefeated. The Mohawk Mountaineers finished second at the end of round-robin play.

Both gold medal matches were excellent games that came down to the last rock. The Humber Hawks' women's team defeated the Niagara Knights 8 - 6, earning Byers a gold medal. The Mohawk Mountaineers defeated the Humber Hawks' men's team 5 - 4, with Little securing gold and Dobson earning silver.

To add to their gold medals, both Byers and Little were selected to the first all-star teams, an added honour and recognition at the end of the championship.

It is a huge testament to the calibre of our local curling clubs and the efforts they have put into their youth curling programs, to have three elite athletes not only competing in a provincial championship, but to walk away with three medals. Our local curling clubs and members in both Haliburton and Minden should be immensely proud of their youth curling programs and their investment in the youth of our communities. They have made the sport accessible for all youth and affordable for all families. They removed the barriers of getting children to the club by providing busing. They removed the barriers of cost through fundraising and investing club dollars into their youth programs. They provided healthy snacks and equipment for their young curlers. They volunteered an incredible amount of their time towards the youth. They created



Red Hawks alumni Jacob Dobson, from left, Liam Little and Jessica Byers stand together with their medals after competing at the OCAA (Ontario College Athletic Association) Curling Championships. /Submitted by Cynthia Mitchell

an opportunity for youth to build healthy relationships with adults and in a sport that fosters cooperation and community.

The Haliburton and Minden Curling Clubs went above and beyond with their youth curling programs and the impact on these three elite curlers, indelible.

Byers said, "If I think about what curling means to me, I find myself almost at a loss for words. It's become a part of who I am. The volunteers from the Haliburton and Minden Curling Clubs provided me with an atmosphere to continually grow, improve, set and achieve bigger and bigger goals as an athlete and as a person. When I curl, surrounded by so many inspiring and talented people, I forget about anything else going on in the world, focus on one shot at a time, and support one another. We all come back and love the sport for that reason. I am very grateful to have been introduced to our local youth curling program by my grandparents and all the in-

credible volunteers, coaches, and teammates I've had since I started in 2011. Notably, Bob MacNaull, Hugh Nichol, Terry Lawrence, and Wanda Stephen from the Haliburton Curling Club and Scotty and Jane Boyd from the Minden Curling Club. From my recent competitive experiences, Sherry and Wayne Middaugh, Mike Harris, my Humber College coach Sean Turfiff, and of course, my family and friends."

Little said, "I would for sure like to thank Scotty and Jane Boyd for all the coaching and mentoring as I was growing up learning the sport. I would like to thank the Mohawk athletic program, our coach, Betty Calic, and family and friends for all the support. We couldn't have done it without them."

Dobson said, "I'd like to thank Russ Duhaime and Hugh Nichol, all the other club coaches who helped me starting off with the game, and everyone who's supported me through my curling career. I'd also like to stress how important it is to continue to rebuild the youth curling programs now that we're on the back end of the pandemic. Haliburton and Minden have been able to produce some of the top curlers on every level of the game. This all starts at the grass roots level of getting kids into the game at the elementary level and showing them what is possible."

Unfortunately for Byers, Little, and Dobson they will not be able to continue their curling journey to compete at nationals this year. Curling Canada cancelled all national curling events for the remainder of this season. For the second year in a row, these varsity athletes have been denied the chance to compete at a national level. Hopefully next year will bring them the opportunity.

And hopefully next year, the Haliburton and Minden Curling Clubs will re-establish their youth curling programs. Hopefully, next year, those considering starting youth programs and volunteering their time will be inspired to do so. Anyone who thinks our youth are not worth the investment, need only read this story. Youth success starts with grassroots programs and a community of adults who believe in investing their time in our youth. Huge thanks to the volunteers and sponsors within our community, and to the curling clubs of Haliburton and Minden for leading the way.

Submitted by Cynthia Mitchell



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Storm action

The Highland Storm under-nine LL goalie Mason Bishop, with Claire Hamilton work to prevent a Bancroft Jets player from scoring in minor hockey action on Saturday, March 5 at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton. The Storm, who are coached by Ryan Emmerson, and assisted by Stefan Bjelis, finished winners of the C Division at the conclusion of the Bernie Nicholls Spring tournament. /DARREN LUM Staff

Casting off curling COVID cobwebs

by **NICK BERNARD**
Special to the Times

Former Red Hawks curling champ Connor Duhaime got the chance to cap off an otherwise rocky curling season with one final slice of normalcy at the 2022 Ontario Men's Tankard. Duhaime's team, led by skip Pat Ferris, took part in the event from Feb. 9 to 13, which is the last and largest provincial curling event of the season.

While the rolling COVID mandates made for a spotty season, Duhaime says it was still good to get out on the ice one last time.

"We weren't at our best, we were sort of middle of the pack," he admitted, but said he and the rest of the team still had fun. "We were sometimes playing good, sometimes playing not so good. It felt like it kind of took a little bit of time to get into our groove."

The 2022 Tankard took place in Port Elgin, which Duhaime says was one of the best iterations of the event his team had been to.

"We thought, it was really well-run," he said. "The local community there seems really involved ... just sponsoring, and donating their time and all that sort of stuff. We kind of suspected it might run really smooth, and it did."

Pandemic restrictions in the year kept Team Ferris (of Duhaime, Ferris, Ian Dickie and Zack Shurtleff) from being able to practice together, something Duhaime said was mitigated by modified training at home.

Considering that the health measures to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 affected everyone, Duhaime said everyone else was just as rusty as his team, which meant more of a level playing field, even for curling luminaries like John Epping and Tanner Horgan. Even Glenn Howard felt the strain, with knee problems forcing him to step back, serving as his team's coach and fifth player.

"I think everybody was in the same boat," Duhaime said. "The muscles were pretty sore after the first couple of days."

For the most part, the curling season is almost over, with many of the events winding down. Still, Duhaime will be able to continue practicing for the next season, carrying over some important lessons that were learnt from this year.

"I think just staying focused on the game and trying to come in as prepared as you can with game plans and fitness too," Duhaime said. "Definitely for me, over the summer, I'm gonna try and amp up the workouts. My teammate Zack, he's a bit of a beast in the gym, so I've gotta, you know, try and look good beside him."

For Duhaime, there seems to be a path forward for success for next season, barring any more setbacks due to the ongoing pandemic.



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Last weekend marked the end of the 2022 ice races in Minden and a successful season that almost wasn't due to pandemic restrictions and initially uncooperative weather. The Canadian Automobile Sports Club, together with the Minden Kin Club, kicked off the races on the Feb. 5 weekend, with last races taking place on March 5 before a day of mild weather put an end to this year's track. /Photos by Steven Sherwood Photography

Spectator sport: watching the ice races from the snowbanks

by ALEX GALLACHER
Special to the Times

As weird as it sounds, I'd never attended the Minden ice races before this year. I moved to Minden Hills in 2017 but I was never able to make it to the track, as my university schedule almost always conflicted with the season. The one year I was hoping to go, our good old pal COVID-19 put a stop to that.

However, working with the *Minden Times* has given me the chance to attend the ice races for the first time, ever. On an initiation by the British Automobile Racing Club's Bryan Rashleigh [see March 2 *Times* for his story] my racing background brought me home.

Over the years, I've attended everything from the NASCAR Cup Series races to NTT IndyCar Series races and I can safely say that ice racing is unlike anything I've ever seen. Upon getting there, not only was it very cold, but there were so many people at the track.

Ice racing is a sport unlike sports car racing or NASCAR, it doesn't take a million dollar investment to win. In fact, Rashleigh's car was built back in the '80s and has led him to multiple championships. Everything from SUVs to Lexus' were run out on the track, and all eras from the '80s to the 2010s were represented.

The same can be said for the drivers as well. From the veterans like Rashleigh and Tom Prentice to the young up-and-comers like Khloe Drummond. However, don't be fooled - some of the young drivers can be fierce competitors.

Anyone can get into a car and race, and that is my favourite thing about the event. Since it doesn't cost an arm, a leg and a kidney to race, you have everyone from teenagers to septuagenarians taking to the track.

The racing was very unique. The kidney bean-shaped track created by the Minden Kin Club creates a lot of challenge, which makes it tough for even experienced drivers to get ahold of. Similar to the scenes at your local dirt track, the cars spend most of the lap drifting through the corners.

It was really interesting to watch the drivers as they practiced, as even though many of them have raced here for years they are always still learning. The racing was very close with lots of side-by-side racing throughout the pack - occasionally the leader is able to gap the rest of the field by a few seconds. Being customized street cars, there isn't often too much bumping or banging.

Hanging out with Bryan's team, it was clear that everyone was very close-knit. His team ran two cars for himself and his son, and a further three cars for his teammates. Everyone worked together to ensure the cars were good to race, and furthermore able to be competitive. The grassroots - or maybe iceroots is more appropriate - feel is very comforting. If

someone is in a crash, people will be jumping at the chance to help out wherever they can. Even when drivers get into disagreements, they usually don't last long. There are always friendly rivalries, but it never gets to the point where fists are thrown.

The atmosphere is very fun. I found myself making new friends very quickly and I even ran into people that I've met before in my motorsports career. Everyone is friendly to talk to and they are eager to teach you about the sport they love. It's easy to get wrapped up talking about the history, and even as a newbie everyone was eager to fill me in on the rules and drivers.

The ice races are a fun competition to take part in on weekends. Although it was cold outside, the heat was on the track. The starts were something that I found really cool, as they did standings starts à la Formula One.

This made it even more interesting as the non-studded classes would slip and slide all over the place as they jockeyed for positions. Surprisingly, nobody in the races I watched had any major accidents. For casual race fans and even people who don't watch motorsports, I think ice racing is a fun family event that can be enjoyed by everyone.

Minden is a town of many things, however, most would never have guessed that Minden has a rich racing background. A tradition like no other, the Minden ice races will be here for many more years to come.



GENERATIONS

Seeing the world through a lens of wonder

Snow, ice, mud; as adults we look at these and see them as inconveniences or hazards. But children view these as wonders of unlimited potential. With the weather changes the kindergarten children have been carefully observing and investigating the changes to our yard. At the start of last week they discovered patches of ice under snow. They carefully cleared off the snow, noticing differences in textures in the ice and theorizing about the cause and its impact on the slipperiness of the ice. They tested those wonderings by slipping, sliding, running, dancing and twirling on the ice! There was a lot of falling, a ton of laughter, and limitless joy. Other "Kinders" [kindergarten students] turned the snowbanks into a cave system for dens for their wild cat family. Every inch of the landscape added to their imaginary world.

The following days the weather had warmed up enough that the dirt in the shade shelter had absorbed melting snow and turned into mud. To a four-year old, mud is one of the greatest toys in the world! They started off by jumping into the biggest puddles they could find and trying to make the biggest splash but there weren't enough puddles for everyone. I watched as they thought together about how to fix the problem. I was amazed as they came up with the idea of making more puddles. With very few words the children gathered together shovels and began to move mud around, using shovels, hands, and feet. An older child joined in to help them with their project, adding valuable strength while listening carefully to the Kinders directions and vision. After several minutes of quiet ob-

servation I asked them what their plan was.

"We're making a dam!" one informed me. "It's not just a dam, it's a mud dam," another corrected.

"We're not just making a dam, we are making a pile so that zero water left and then there's no water left," Zoe gestured towards the pile of dirt she had created which blocked off a stream of water.

Clark pointed at one of the puddles that was forming and told me, "it's really deep."

They created a functioning dam, where water moved through stream pathways they set up into specific puddle areas, and allowed the areas they'd dammed off to dry up. They were successful creating several new puddles.

Nearby other children had created a snowball making machine in a snowbank. I asked them about their creation and how it worked and Dillon told me, "the gems go into this part and then they get rolled and then they pop out of here. And that's how you make a snowball." "This part's the ice-breaker" Mason added. They were very proud of their work and had a shared vision of each function of the machine and how it worked together.

The next day the mud play continued, with a focus on exploring the properties of mud. Using the dam system that was already created, the Kinders found dry sand and experimented with adding it into puddles, noticing how the sand absorbed water, but that the amount of sand changed how quickly it was absorbed, and if they added enough dry sand to a spot they would dam up that spot and affect the water system that had been created.

They also explored what happened if they put a large chunk of ice into muddy water. They noticed that the ice absorbed the colour of the mud, but that it at first seemed otherwise unaffected. They checked again later and saw that the ice had actually started to shrink and become smaller.

The Kinder children's wonder and imagination when presented with ice, snow, and

mud has made me pause and reflect on the limitless play possibilities available for all of us if we just looked at the world through the eyes of a child.

*Submitted by Lindsay Jowett OCT
Supervisor/Kinder Teacher
Compass ELC Archie Stouffer/Minden*



Eden experiences the joy of connecting feet with puddles. /Photos by Lindsay Jowett



Dayton, Zoe and Clark work together to create a play area filled with mud and puddles and muddy puddles.



Nathan, Eden and Clark find ice under the snow and get to work on slipping and sliding.



Dillon and Mason use chunks of packed snow as their outdoor building blocks.

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HISTORY IN THE HIGHLANDS

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Grave marker of Permillia Eastman in Minden Cemetery / Source: Haliburton Highlands Genealogy Group

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Level: Advanced

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 17

Long before 1859, there had been Indigenous people who were stewards of the land that was to become Haliburton County. They were the first inhabitants.

In 1859, newly surveyed lots on either side of the Bobcaygeon Colonization Road in the townships of Anson and Minden became available for ownership. Area pioneers, some of whom were already squatting on the land, quickly applied for Crown land grants and began the process of earning title to their properties through clearing a portion of the lot, planting crops and building a house.

Today, a mural on our Minden post office commemorates three people who were “firsts” in the village: Daniel Buck, Mary Jane Kent, and Dr. Charles D Curry.

Daniel Buck became the first postmaster in 1859. Mary Jane Kent, daughter of Francis Kent and Catherine Cameron, was said to be the first white baby born in the village, and Dr. Charles D Curry was the first doctor to set up a practice in Minden in 1869.

The 1861 census, taken just a few years after the village was established, recorded the following firsts:

On the west (Anson township) side of the Bobcaygeon Road in the village Daniel Buck and William Watts were stonemasons, James Buck was enumerated as the tavern keeper, and Andrew Bell was the shoemaker. Buck’s Tavern was said to be the location for the multi day party when the first bridge was built over the Gull River on the Bobcaygeon Colonization Road.

On the east (Minden township) side of the street, John Henderson had a store mid-block. There was also a tailor in the village named Harry Dawkins.

Other pioneers on that first local census were Francis Bowron, the teacher, William Gainer, the mill owner, Thomas Young, the miller, and a Wesleyan Methodist minister named George Henry Kenney.



ADELE ESPINA
History in the Highlands

Mark Morrison was the first blacksmith in the early 1860s. His blacksmith shop was located on the northeast corner of Invergordon and Bobcaygeon Road. He moved out west around 1901 and sold the property to the Stinson family who ran a livery and boarding house from that location.

In Nila Reynolds’ book *In Quest of Yesterday*, Benjamin Sawyer is said to have been the first hotel keeper in 1863. This hotel was located on the current Rockcliffe Tavern property. Land records show that the property was actually owned by his common law wife Margaret Humphrey who gained title to the lot in 1869. She also bought the lot just south of the hotel in 1878 for a stable. Why did they never marry? Could it be that his first wife was still alive?

Nila Reynolds also writes that Mrs. Catherine Kent, mother of Mary Jane Kent, was the first white woman to settle at Minden village in 1859. As well, she says in her book that John Shove, born in 1855, was the first white child born in Minden township.

Permillia Alvina Eastman was the first recorded burial in Minden Cemetery. According to her grave marker, she was the second daughter of Soloman and Phebe Eastman and died at the young age of 15 years, 7 months on February 15, 1861. Her headstone survives, although it has fallen over and is sinking into the earth.

An odd claim of being first is found in Samuel Gainer’s 1891 obituary in Lindsay’s The Canadian Post. His sons are credited with this achievement:

“... (Samuel Gainer) moved to Minden about thirty-two years ago, accompanied by his wife’s father and mother, bringing seven horses and rigs back with him, loaded with his family and goods, his sons being the first persons to drive a team across Gull River bridge with settlers’ effects ...”

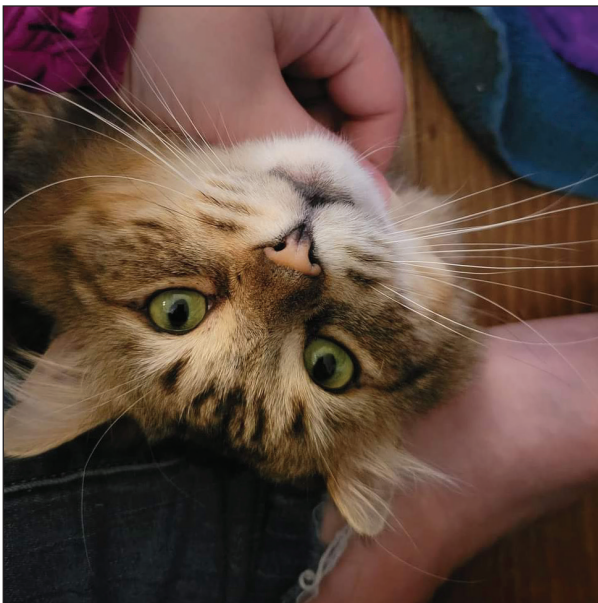
Do you know of any other firsts in our village and surrounding area?



Four oldest settlers of Minden circa 1921: Back row – Edward Noice and Ephriam Constantine Young; Front row: Catherine Cameron Kent and Annie Young Angus. /Source: *Minden Echo* clipping found in the Minden Women’s Institute Tweedsmuir scrapbook collection

AROUND THE COUNTY TOWN

Cats of Paint Lake rescue of the month



The photos (above) were taken of the same cat. Mr. Weathers was trapped last year from a colony in the Kinmount area. He arrived filthy, matted, unhealthy, battle-scarred, and absolutely terrified. He was fierce in his determination to keep all humans at bay. He hissed, spit, and struck out at everyone who had the nerve to come close.

Today, with love and care, good food and the support of our community of amazing volunteers and supporters, Mr. Weathers has become the biggest MUSH cat! He loves to cuddle, asks for affection (and food!), and absolutely anyone can pick him up and snuggle him. An amazing transformation!

Adult feral cats need more time, and lots of care, but they're worth every moment, and all of them deserve a chance at a good life. This is what we do, this is what a community can do.

If you would like to be a part of this community effort, please get in touch. Anyone can help, in big ways or small. For more stories about all of our lovely cats, follow us on Facebook! facebook.com/thecatsofpaintlake

The Cats of Paint Lake is a registered charity, focussed on rescuing feral and stray cats in the Haliburton Highlands and Muskoka Region. We are volunteer run and depend on donations for most of our funding. We would like to acknowledge grant funding from the Haliburton County Development Corporation's Local Initiatives Program 2021-2022.



Sweet Sassy

Tathan McCutcheon, left, and Jennifer Semach feed Sassy a sugar-free treat at Walkabout Farm in Minden. "Sassy is insulin resistant and isn't allowed sugar. One of her fans in Kansas called up here to Minden Mercantile and bought her special sugar-free horse cookies. How kind!" /Photo submitted by Jennifer Semach



Two at Twin Lakes

Algonquin Highlands resident Joleen Thomas was enjoying the Twin Lakes ski trails with Finn the dog on March 5. On March 3, Thomas had completed a 50-kilometre solo ski as part of the Canadian Ski Marathon. /SUE TIFFIN Staff



Swans in the winter air

Two trumpeter swans on the Redstone River off Hwy 118 just past Abbey Gardens in Algonquin Highlands. "Thanks to the cars that slowed down for me." /Photo by June Krisko

To see your loved ones on this page, send photos to sue@haliburtonpress.com

SUDOKU SOLUTION

2	3	1	4	6	5	7	8	9
9	4	8	7	3	1	2	6	5
6	7	5	8	2	9	3	1	4
4	1	9	3	7	8	6	5	2
3	8	6	2	5	4	1	9	7
7	5	2	9	1	6	4	3	8
1	6	4	5	8	7	9	2	3
5	9	3	6	4	2	8	7	1
8	2	7	1	9	3	5	4	6



NOTICE

ADOPTION OF 2022 BUDGET

NOTE: As a result of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak, as well as the requirements for social distancing, Council Meetings will be conducted electronically via web conference until further notice.

NOTICE is provided that the Council of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-law to adopt the 2022 Municipal Budget at its Regular Meeting scheduled for **Thursday March 17, 2022.**

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link. The live-stream link can be accessed on the published Council Meeting Agendas found on the Township's website at <https://algonquinhighlands.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/200688>

Dated this 3rd day of March, 2022.

Dawn Newhook, Municipal Clerk
Township of Algonquin Highlands
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E: dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca

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- Must reside in Haliburton County
- Must have access to a vehicle and a valid driver's licence
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Interested candidates should forward their resume with writing and photography samples to Editors, Darren Lum or Sue Tiffin
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Be always in our hearts.

Barbara Elizabeth Bunker (nee Bird)

Barbara Elizabeth Bunker (nee Bird) was a loving and caring wife, mother, grandmother, cousin and friend, she passed away on Thursday, March 3, 2022 in her 85th year.

She was born in Toronto, Ontario to Arthur and Margaret Bird on August 7, 1936. After graduating from North Toronto Collegiate Institute and subsequently earning her Ontario Teachers Certification, Barbara began her elementary education career with the North York Board of Education at Queensborough Junior High and Yvonne Avenue Public Schools. It was at Yvonne Avenue that she met fellow teacher Bruce Bunker. They were married on June 29, 1961, moved to Richmond Hill and she continued her teaching career at Walter Scott Public School. When the couple's first child arrived she left teaching for her other calling, parenting, raising three children.

Barbara was a voracious reader, delighted in crosswords, took joy in live theatre, golf rounds with family and friends, baked shortbread cookies that were unmatched, at "The Cottage" in Ingoldsby spending summer days on the dock or under a shade tree revelling in card games and puzzles. She treated friends as if they were family and family held a very special place in her heart.

Barbara is survived by her children, that she was so proud of, David (Lisa), Diana (Brad) and Maria (Ken), her grandchildren, who she adored, Kristine (Matt), Sandra (Mike), Chloe, Kael, Sean and Avery, and beloved cousin David.

Predeceased just ten days by her husband Bruce, the love of her life.

As Barbara had wished there are no funeral plans. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Donations may be made in her name with The Highlands Summer Festival (Haliburton, Ontario) the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada.

"Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, but their hearts forever."

"How lucky we are to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."



In Loving Memory of

Bunker, Bruce John

Bruce John Bunker, 88, of Richmond Hill, Ontario peacefully passed away on Monday, February 21, 2022 at Mackenzie Health Hospital.

Bruce was born in Rathburn, Ontario on April 15, 1933 in the family farmhouse. The family later moved to Orillia where he eventually graduated from the Orillia District Collegiate and Vocational Institute. He continued on to receive his Bachelor of Education degree from The University of Toronto.

Bruce was married to Barbara (nee Bird) on June 29, 1961.

He was a career teacher with the North York Board of Education, specializing in Math and Industrial Arts, instructing at Yvonne Avenue Public, Ledbury Park Elementary and Pleasant View Junior High Schools. In his youth he excelled at athletics, particularly baseball and hockey, representing Orillia area teams over numerous seasons. He was one of the original members of The Orillia Road Knights Motorcycle Club. Later in life, golf became his passion while spending family summer vacations at "The Cottage" in Ingoldsby, Ontario and snowbird winters in Florida. Frequently roaming the fairways of Blairhampton and Pinestone, and the bordering woods and ponds searching to add to his vast golf ball collection. Tinkering was also a favourite hobby, spending hours in the "workbarn", basement or garage on a repair, woodworking, ornament creation or renovation project. His love of family and friends shone throughout his life and he touched many many more lives than he knew, and we are all better for it.

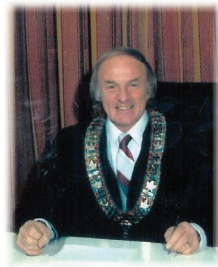
Bruce is survived by his wife, Barbara, children David (Lisa), Diana (Brad), Maria (Ken), grandchildren Sandra (Mike), Kristine (Matt), Chloe, Kael, Sean, Avery, brother Jim (Betty) and many nieces and nephews.

Bruce is preceded in death by brother Bob (Helen) and sisters Katherine (Elmer) and Shirley (Bill). In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada.

A celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

"What we once have enjoyed we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes part of us." – Helen Keller

"Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened." – Dr. Seuss



In Loving Memory of

Norman Ronald "Ron" Gambell

Passed away peacefully at home in Minden with his loving partner by his side on Sunday, March 6, 2022, in his 89th year.

Beloved husband of Suwan, dear father of Norm, Jim and step-father of May and her husband George, grandpa to Cooper and Amanda. Fondly remembered by his family and friends. Ron was a Master Grand Salesman with General Motors for many years until he moved to Minden where he opened Gambell Motors. He was a member of Minden Council in the 1980's, Warden for Lutterworth Township and sat on County Council. He later opened Gambell Antiques and in 2001 Ron and Suwan opened the famous Suwan's Thai Cuisine.

A Celebration of Ron's Life will be held at Suwan's Thai Cuisine in the fall and the date and time will be announced at a later date.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

Savage, Emil Stanley

of Cambridge and formerly of Aylmer, London and Haliburton, passed away at his residence on Monday, February 28, 2022 in his 97th year. Beloved husband of the late Audrey (Johnson) Savage. Dear father of Mark Savage of Kitchener and Paul Savage (Nancy) of Ayr. Loving grandpa of Laura (Pasquale), Kyle and Jessica. Great-grandpa of Logan, Sienna, Khristian, Rex and Vincent. Predeceased by a granddaughter Megan and siblings Jack, Al and Edith. He will be missed by a number of nieces and nephews. Born in Jedburgh, Saskatchewan on September 19, 1925, son of the late Joseph and Anna (Prybylski) Bogdasavich. Stan served in WWII with the RCAF. He worked for CN Rail for 31 years. There will be no formal service. Cremation has taken place. Interment, Aylmer Cemetery. Donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or the Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Fund would be appreciated. Share memories or condolences at kebbelfuneralhome.com.



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Monday, March 24, 1997

Deputies declared endangered at county

by Jerry Grozelle

Deputy-reeves will no longer sit at the Haliburton County council table after the next municipal election. County council voted 12-7 in favour of a by-law that changed the composition of the council and determined the weight of the votes given to the remaining council members.

Representatives from Anson, Hindon and Minden, Lutterworth and Stanhope municipal councils opposed the resolution, with the remainder of council members, including warden Murray Fearrey (who called for a recorded vote) supporting the by-law.

The by-law allows a designate from each municipality to sit at county council in the absence of the reeve. That designate, who will be appointed by the municipal councils, will have all the voting privileges, rights, powers and authority of the reeve he or she represents.

Although several members of the public, most of whom were municipal council members, attended the public meeting, no comments in favour or opposed to the resolution were offered.

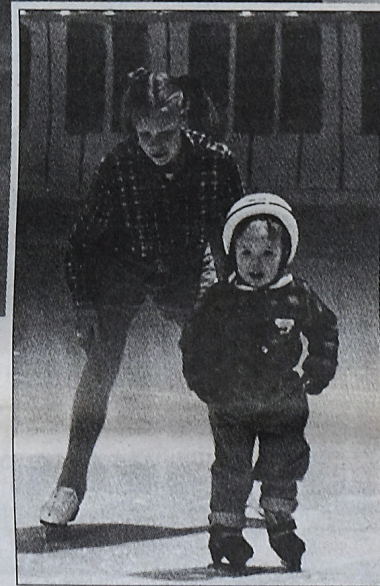
The county was originally proposing that the weighted vote be changed to reflect each member of the electorate within the municipal boundaries. The by-law was changed to keep the voting weight the same as the current value. Under the current system, municipalities with an electorate of fewer than 2,500 will have one vote, those with 2,500 to 5,000 have two votes, those with 5,000 to 7,500 have three votes and those with more than 7,500 have four votes.

Next edition appears Tuesday

Please note that due to the Easter Monday holiday, the next edition of The Times will appear Tuesday April 1. The Times office will be open Friday March 28 and the deadlines for the next edition of the paper remain unchanged. The Times office will be closed Easter Monday, March 31.



LIGHTS, CAMERA...ACTION!! Members of the Minden Skating Club delighted audiences Saturday night and Sunday afternoon with the presentation of their annual skating extravaganza. This year's show was entitled "See you at the Movies" with themes taken from recent film productions. Above, three of the beginner skaters, Erin Pottier, Kaitlyn Allore and Erica MacMartin, follow Jasmine Wilson through their routine for 'Sister Act', while at the right, Todd Bryan get a little encouragement from Keegan Mackenzie as he skates with the beginner boys to Sweet Home Alabama from the movie 'Forest Gump'. For more photos of this year's performances, please turn to page 11.



Municipalities will soon learn how much

Policing costs shifted

by Jerry Grozelle

Every municipality within Haliburton County and the northern townships of Victoria and Peterborough Counties should know by mid-April the costs of having police services delivered by the Ontario Provincial Police.

Bill Hutton, regional superintendent of the OPP and Cobocok-Minden OPP staff sergeant, Andy Millar, attended the Haliburton County council meeting March 19 to update county council members on changes in policing and to let them know the numbers have been calculated.

Hutton said that Millar will have the figures on March 26 and he will be attending individual council meetings to discuss the costs. Hutton also said there would be a "roll-up cost" that the county would be expected to assume.

Municipalities will have a number of options. They can contract individually with the OPP; seek the services of another police force; several municipalities may band together and ask for specific costing for their collective needs; or they may continue with OPP services as they are and be billed for

that service.

Hutton said the cost figures are based on actual 1996 costs.

"As we all know, these are just proposals," Hutton said. "There are some issues in the costing that need to be addressed."

Hutton pointed out that if individual municipalities decide to contract their own police services, whether or not those services are from the OPP, a police services board will have to be formed. He suggested that groups of municipalities would save funds if they combine for the purpose of contracting police services, thereby eliminating the need for numerous boards.

Anson, Hindon and Minden will be one of the first municipalities to learn what its cost for policing from the OPP will be. Millar is scheduled to attend this Thursday's council meeting.

OPP moving to MNR building

Hutton told county council that the OPP will move its Haliburton County operations to the Ministry of Natural Resources building in Minden. The facility will be shared by the MNR and the OPP. In the meantime, the police

will continue to use the current facility on Highway 35.

"The building at the back and part of the building at the front will be renovated for our purposes," Hutton said.

Renovations at the MNR building are expected to take between three and six months to complete before the move can be made. Construction will start immediately.

The move will eliminate \$37,000 per year in rental fees at the current building, Hutton said. The action is also accomplishing objectives that have been set out by the provincial government which call for co-habitation with other government agencies, in government-owned facilities, wherever possible.

"Of course, once people start paying for policing, if somebody wants to supply us with a nice building, we'd look at moving in there," Hutton said.

Hutton said that when the Ontario Realty Corporation ceases to exist, it will turn over all the buildings that the OPP occupy, to those police forces.

"The kicker is that they will only

(more on page 4)

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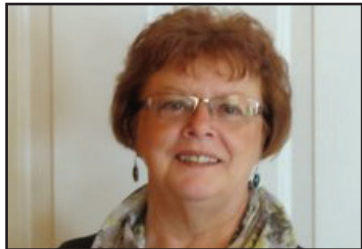
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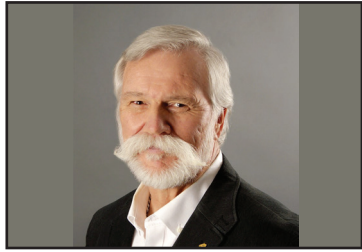
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